

December 11, 2023

Mr. Ben Weinheimer
Chair
Region A Regional Water Planning Group
c/o Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
PO Box 9257
Amarillo, TX 79105

Dear Chairman Weinheimer:

I have reviewed your request dated July 18, 2023, for approval of alternative water supply assumptions to be used in determining existing surface water availability. This letter confirms that the TWDB approves the following assumptions:

1. Use extended hydrology through 2017 for Lake Meredith to assess existing supply.
2. Use extended hydrology through 2022 for Palo Duro Reservoir to assess existing supply.
3. Use the Canadian WAM with hydrology extended through 2004 for the assessment of run-of-river existing supply.
4. Use of a one-year safe yield for the allocation and distribution of surface water supplies from Lake Meredith and Palo Duro Reservoir in the Canadian River Basin.
5. Use an Excel spreadsheet model to calculate the reservoir yields for Lake Meredith and Palo Duro Reservoir.
6. Use safe yield for determining existing supply from Greenbelt Reservoir in the Red River Basin.

The TWDB has developed alternative auxiliary extended naturalized flows and reservoir evaporation data for certain river basins, which are available for RWPG consideration and optional use. These data sets are currently available through 2021 and will soon be available through 2022 for the Canadian WAM on the following website: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/data/ExtendedNatFlow/index.asp>. The region is also authorized to apply these data sets to extend the hydrology through 2022 for sources in the Canadian River Basin, should the region choose to do so.

Although the TWDB approves the use of a one-year safe yield for developing estimates of current water supplies, firm yield for each reservoir must still be reported to TWDB in the online planning database and plan documents. For the purpose of evaluating potentially

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feasible water management strategies, the TCEQ WAM Run 3 is to be used, unless a separate hydrologic variance for water management strategy availability is submitted and approved by the TWDB.

While the TWDB authorizes these modification to evaluate existing water supplies for development of the 2026 Region A RWP, it is the responsibility of the RWPG to ensure that the resulting estimates of water availability are reasonable for drought planning purposes and will reflect conditions expected in the event of actual drought conditions; and in all other regards will be evaluated in accordance with the most recent version of regional water planning contract Exhibit C, *General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michele Foss of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-463-9225 or michele.foss@twdb.texas.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Walker
Executive Administrator

c: Alex Guerrero, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
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